



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/550,494

06/30/2006

Christoph Matzig

MATZ3004/JEK

2909

23364 7590 01/28/2009

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

625 SLATERS LANE

FOURTH FLOOR

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-1176

EXAMINER

HAGEMAN, MARK

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3653

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/28/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/550,494	Applicant(s) MATZIG, CHRISTOPH	
	Examiner Mark Hageman	Art Unit 3653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 November 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 November 2008 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-6 and 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 4,596,924 to Watanabe. Watanabe discloses inserting the bank notes to be deposited into an input pocket of the apparatus (c7 lines 32+), checking the inserted bank notes by a checking device of the apparatus at least as to the authenticity, and the state of the bank notes and determining fitness for circulation of said banknotes as a result of the checking (c7 lines 51+ and c11 lines 40+), transporting at least parts of the bank notes which were recognized as not fit for circulation by the checking device into a storage pocket of the apparatus not accessible by the operator during the ongoing money deposit transaction (c11 lines 53+), transporting at least parts of the bank notes which were recognized as fit for circulation by the checking device into a storage pocket of the apparatus freely accessible by the operator during the ongoing money deposit transaction (c12 lines 35+), subsequently transporting the bank notes located in the not accessible storage pocket into a bank note cassette not accessible by the operator (c10 lines 15+).

Re claims 2-5 and 9-11 see 4, 9, 12, 13 and c10 lines 43+. Examiner further notes that initially all notes deemed authentic are to be retained.

Re claim 6 and 12 criteria used by the checking device for checking the bank notes as to their fitness state are changeable. Applicant is respectfully reminded that claim language consisting of functional language and/or intended use phrasing is given little, if any, patentable weight as the apparatus must merely be capable of functioning, or being used, as claimed. See MPEP 2112.02, 2114. Here, the device as cited above is certainly capable of having the criteria be changeable or relate to one or more of an amount, a number, a currency and a denomination of the bank notes. In fact, the device allows the user to input specific criteria (c10 lines 43+).

Re claim 8 an input pocket accessible during the ongoing money deposit transaction, for inserting bank notes to be deposited, a checking device arranged to check bank notes inserted into the input pocket at least as to the authenticity and state of the bank notes and to determine fitness for circulation of said banknotes, a storage pocket not accessible during the ongoing money deposit transaction, a storage pocket freely accessible during the ongoing money deposit transaction, a not accessible bank note cassette, and a transport system arranged to transport the bank notes from the input pocket to the checking device, from the checking device to the freely accessible storage pocket, the not accessible storage pocket, and from the not accessible storage pocket into the bank note cassette, and a control unit arranged to actuate the transport

Art Unit: 3653

system in such a way that bank notes not fit for circulation at least partially are transported into the not accessible storage pocket, and bank notes fit for circulation at least partially are transported into the freely accessible storage pocket.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by WO 02/50784 to Matzig in view of Watanabe. References below are to portions of US 2004/0064413 which applicant has discussed at the equivalent of WO 02/50784. Matzig (Fig.) teaches an apparatus for executing a money deposit transaction, namely depositing bank notes comprising:

an input pocket (3) accessible during the ongoing money deposit transaction, for inserting bank notes to be deposited,

a checking device (10) arranged to check bank notes inserted into the input pocket at least as to the authenticity and state of the bank notes and to determine fitness for circulation of said banknotes resulting therefrom (para. 29, 37-39),

a storage pocket (14) not accessible during the ongoing money deposit transaction,

Art Unit: 3653

a storage pocket (4, 5) freely accessible during the ongoing money deposit transaction,

a not accessible bank note cassette (15), and

a transport system (9) arranged to transport notes from the input pocket to the checking device, from the checking device to the freely accessible storage pocket, the not accessible storage pocket, and from the not accessible storage pocket into the bank note cassette (para. 29, 37-39 and 42 teaching the transport of not recognized bank notes, under the control of the control unit, into a further, freely accessible storage pocket and retaining notes beyond those needed for change);

and a control unit (17), arranged to actuate the transport system in such a way bank notes fit for circulation at least partially are transported into the freely accessible storage pocket (para. 29-32 and para 42);

Matzig does not disclose relative to claims 1 and 8 respectively transporting at least parts of the bank notes which were recognized as not fit for circulation by the checking device into a storage pocket of the apparatus not accessible by the operator during the ongoing money deposit transaction and the control system controlling the transport system to carry out such an operation. Watanabe discloses transporting at least parts of the bank notes which were recognized as not fit for circulation by the checking device into a storage pocket of the apparatus not accessible by the operator during the ongoing money deposit transaction and the control system controlling the transport system to carry out such an operation (c11 lines 23+) in order to accept all

Art Unit: 3653

authentic notes that can be determined as such while preventing authentic but unfit bills from continued circulation (c11 lines 28+).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have modified Matzig to include the retention of unfit bills, as taught by Watanabe, in order to accept all authentic notes that can be determined as such while preventing authentic but unfit bills from continued circulation.

Matzig further discloses a display and input unit (6), for the input of criteria for the transportation of the bank notes either or both fit for circulation and not fit for circulation into either or both the freely accessible storage pocket and the not accessible storage pocket (para. 31 et seq. and para. 13 teaching that criteria can be supplied remotely via data transmission thus it is implicit that unit is connected to cash desk). Further, Applicant is respectfully reminded that claim language consisting of functional language and/or intended use phrasing is given little, if any, patentable weight as the apparatus must merely be capable of functioning, or being used, as claimed. See MPEP 2112.02, 2114. Here, the device as cited above is certainly capable of having the criteria be changeable or relate to one or more of an amount, a number, a currency and a denomination of the bank notes. In fact, the device allows the user to input specific criteria (para. 34 et seq.). The method claims are anticipated in the normal operation of the device cited above.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Hageman whose telephone number is (571) 272-3027. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-4:00.

Art Unit: 3653

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Mackey can be reached on (571) 272-6916. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Patrick H. Mackey/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3653

MCH